

# Arizona Department of Water Resources

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www.azwater.gov



For Immediate Release:

June 1, 2006

Janet Napolitano,  
Governor  
Herb Guenther,  
Director

NEWS

RELEASE

Public Information Office  
(602) 771 8430

## ADWR fines Green Valley golf course for conservation violations

Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Herb Guenther announced today that the San Ignacio Golf Course in Green Valley reached a settlement agreement with the Department over violations of ADWR's mandatory conservation requirements. The course owners will pay up to \$17,350 in fines, he said.

Investigation found that the course had exceeded the annual groundwater use limits established in ADWR's Third Management Plan for the Tucson Active Management Area.

In reaching the settlement, ADWR agreed to waive \$37,350 of the \$54,700 in civil penalties accrued from violations that occurred between 2003 and 2005. Guenther cited the course management's voluntary removal of five acres of turf and efforts to improve course efficiency as factors in his decision to reduce the penalties.

Additionally, to identify the potential for future conservation, the facility's management must submit the results of a professional irrigation audit to ADWR by the end of 2006. ADWR will allow no reductions in fines for any violations that may occur in 2006 or 2007.

The turf removal by San Ignacio tracks a broader trend towards smaller courses. "Golf courses built in the last 15 years in the Tucson AMA have, on average, 15% less turf than courses built before that date," said Laura Grignano, Tucson AMA turf and industrial specialist. "Our turf allotments have had a lot to do with that."

"Overall the golf industry has done a good job of saving water," said Guenther, "but the public expects water to be conserved, and we will continue to pursue all violations vigorously."

For additional information, contact:

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*Celebrating 25 Years*

# Arizona Department of Water Resources

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[www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov)



For Immediate Release:  
May 15, 2006  
Janet Napolitano,  
Governor  
Herb Guenther,  
Director

## NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office  
(602) 771 8430

### ADWR fines two Tucson golf courses for conservation violations

Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Herb Guenther announced today that two Tucson area golf courses settled violations of ADWR's mandatory conservation requirements between 2002 and 2005.

Investigation found that the golf facilities - the Stone Canyon Club and the Golf Club at Vistoso - exceeded the annual groundwater use limits established in ADWR's Third Management Plan for the Tucson Active Management Area.

In reaching the settlement, ADWR agreed to waive half of the \$173,025 in civil penalties accrued between 2002-2005. Efforts to improve course efficiency and the facilities' recent switch from groundwater to reclaimed effluent played a big part in the agency's decision to reduce the penalties, Guenther said.

To identify conservation potential, the facilities' management must submit the results of a professional irrigation audit to ADWR by the end of 2006. Owners of Stone Canyon and Vistoso may choose to reduce the amount of the fine further if they replenish the aquifer through artificial recharge. No reductions will be allowed for any violations that may occur in 2006 or 2007.

The settlement between ADWR and the Stone Canyon Club and the Golf Club at Vistoso comes at a time when golf in Arizona is under increasing public scrutiny regarding water use. "Overall the golf industry has done a good job of saving water," said Guenther, "but our turf conservation program is tough, and these fines show how serious Arizona's efforts are."

For additional information, contact:

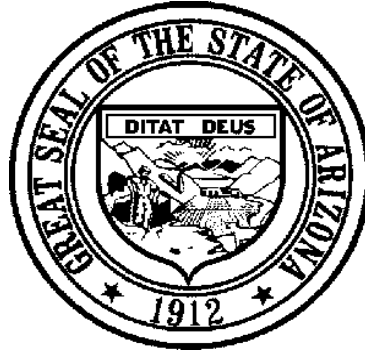
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*Celebrating 25 Years*

# Arizona Department of Water Resources

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For Immediate Release:  
September 28, 2005  
Janet Napolitano,  
Governor  
Herb Guenther,  
Director

## NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office  
(602) 417 2400 ext. 7133

### Sahuarita Agrees To Settle Excess-Use Violations at Lake Park

The Arizona Department of Water Resources announced today that the Town of Sahuarita has agreed to settle a case involving conservation requirements at the Town's Lake Park through 2008.

The artificial lake is supplied with groundwater and is subject to mandatory conservation requirements contained in ADWR's Third Management Plan for the Tucson Active Management Area. Review by ADWR staff indicated that since 2002 the Lake Park has substantially exceeded its maximum annual water allotment.

In acknowledgement of the Town's willingness to investigate the source of the lake seepage, and to rely entirely on recovered effluent as replacement water, ADWR has agreed to waive half of an estimated \$74,500 in pending civil penalties and attach conditions to the remainder.

The Town has committed to fully offsetting its water use at the Park by recharging effluent generated at the Town's wastewater treatment plant, beginning in 2006, ADWR Director Herb Guenther said.

If the Town meets this target, costs associated with the effluent project can be used to reduce civil penalties assessed at \$125 per acre-foot for violations since 2002. If any violations occur at the Lake between 2006 and 2008, the Town faces fines of \$250 per acre-foot, and no prior-year cost reductions will be allowed.

"The consent order between ADWR and the Town of Sahuarita resolves a contentious compliance case in a way that will enhance local water management efforts," Guenther said. "By recharging an offsetting amount of effluent, the impact on the aquifer is mitigated, and the Town will contribute to the 'safe-yield' management goal of the Tucson AMA."

For additional information, contact:

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